ijtb AprtL THE EARL OF ESSEX'S COMMISSION FOR CALAIS

The commission for my Lord of Essex is now drawn, making him Lieutenant-General of an army of 6,000 men for the relief of the citadel of Calais But withal he is instructed not to carry over the forces unless the King signify his compliance with the condition of delivering the town to her Majesty until she Is assured of her great expenses, and he better able to defend it without driving her still to these unsupportable burdens , not to take over more than the 6,000, and not to embark them unless he is likely to arrive in time to save the town, not to employ them unless the French King has such strength of horse and foot that the burden may not fall upon the Queen's subjects, but they be used as auxiliaries , not to attempt anything of importance without consulting the principal officers, and especially Sir George Carew and Sir Thomas Wilkes , to take with him only such nobles as have leave to go, namely, my Lords Sussex, Rich, Herbert and Burgh, but not Derby, Southampton, Mountjoy, Compton, Windsor, nor Sheffield, who shall return

i^tb Aprtl THE QUEEN'S LETTER TO THE EARL OF ESSEX.

This day the Queen went on board the ship *Dtu Repube* and there with her own hand she wrote these words to the Earl of Essex. * As distant as I am from your abode, yet my ears serve me too well to hear that terrible battery that methinks sounds for relief at my hands, wherefore, rather than for lack of timely aid it should be wholly lost, go you, in God's Blessed Name, as far as that place where you may soonest relieve it, with as much caution as so great a trust requires But I

charge you, without the mere loss of it, do in no wise peril so fair an army for another Prince's town. God cover you under His safest wings, and let all peril go without your compass."

CALAIS.

Yesterday hard shooting was heard about Calais, so the truce is broken The French thmlr that Monsieur Vidazon will hold out to the uttermost, and the King has sent him word that he shall hang him if h$ gives it up by composition*